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The Evolution of States. By J. M. ROBERTSON. New York: Putnam, 1913. 8vo, pp. 487. \$2.50.

The viewpoint of this book may be understood from the author's own words, contained in his introductory chapter (pp. 2-3): "What is most wanted in history is sociological truth rooted in psychology and biology. The evil of theoretical extremes is not so much their falsehood as their irrelevance. If we are to instruct each other in conduct, it must be in terms of sympathies and antipathies; and if we are to profit by a study of politicians who are among the most generally typical of men, and of politics which is the expression of so much life, we must go about it as humanists and not as fatalists." In a word he asks students and writers of history to use their powers of observation and application more and their imagination less. The growing recognition of this position he points out in the Preface (p. viii): "Alike as to ancient and modern history the effort of scholars is now more and more toward comprehension of historic causation in terms of determining conditions, the economic above all."

In applying his principles, the critic successively considers the growth and decay of the Roman and Greek politics, the case of the Italian republic, the lesser European states, among which he includes the Scandinavian peoples, the Hansa, Holland, Switzerland, and Portugal, concluding his study with an analysis of English history down to the constitutional period.

He taboos as meaningless the personification of states so often resorted to. Imperialism as a national policy, glorified by some, to him has only destruction as a consequence. The tendency to attribute certain higher racial characteristics to the Germanic stocks, especially the Anglo-Saxon, as compared with other peoples, he deprecates as a mania. Throughout, the predominating influence of economic interests is emphasized.

It might be inferred from this brief survey that the book is mainly destructive. On the contrary, it presents a constructive thesis of historic causation which is amply substantiated with quotations and exact reference.

The Family and Social Work. By EDWARD T. DEVINE. New York: Association Press, 1912. 12mo, pp. 163. 60 cents.

This little book is a strong plea for effective social work organized and directed with a view to the improvement and elevation of the institution of the family. "All kinds of social work," we are told, "may be described in terms of family welfare. All kinds of anti-social influences may be measured by their untoward effects on family welfare" (p. 31). The duty of the social worker is to rehabilitate and redeem, not to eliminate. Though by no means denying the principles of eugenics, the author takes a decided stand against the radical adherents of this philosophy on the ground that "what is wrong

with most of those who are making shipwreck of their lives is not their remote ancestry, not their protoplasmic inheritance, not their inborn nature; but their home life, their education, their associations, the conditions under which they earn their living, the institutions under which they live" (p. 50).

Greater social control in industry is urged. But in such social institutions as the school, it is held, there is danger of going too far and thus undermining parental responsibility. Yet, where the parents cannot be induced to give proper care, society must step in and do so. "The first claim of the child is upon its own parents, but society underwrites the obligation, and if parenthood is bankrupt the community must see that the claim is met" (p. 83). Vocational training in the schools is advocated as a means of doing away with the industrial inefficiency which so often leads to divorce and desertion. In the case of the abnormal and degenerate, colonization and complete control is pointed out as the best solution, but in the case of others who may need assistance of some kind, "the one thing which we should not do is to relieve them of the responsibility of shaping their own lives" (p. 131). That the little volume is well written and well worth reading by anyone at all interested in social problems, it is, in view of the wide reputation of the author, hardly necessary to state.

La coopération neutre et la coopération socialiste. By E. VANDERVELDE.
Paris: Felix Alcan, 1913. 12mo, pp. 226. Fr. 3.50.

Co-operative consumers' associations have developed more or less in all leading countries in such a way as to constitute a very important factor in the socialistic movement of our time. In the beginning rejected by nearly all socialistic schools, consumers' co-operation has latterly been more and more recognized as an efficient means to foster the advent of the socialistic organization of economic life. Two different types can be distinguished among the numerous associations of the different countries, namely those which are neutral and those which are socialistic. The neutral associations, which have as organs the Union Coopérative in France, the Konsumgenossenschaftliche Rundschau in Germany, the Co-operatives News in England, consider co-operation as *the* means of solving the social question by organizing all consumers and by absorbing gradually all branches of production and distribution. They appeal for the realization of this ideal to all consumers without distinction of creed, opinion, or class. They claim that co-operation is self-sufficient and that it must preserve absolute independence with regard to political parties. For the socialistic co-operators, on the contrary, according to their resolution at the Copenhagen Congress, co-operation is only *one* means for the emancipation of the working class. They consider the co-operative movement a class movement which concerns only working-men. They claim that between co-operative associations, labor organizations, and political parties intimate relations must be established in order to focus their efforts upon the common